

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JBENGLE:PCS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAID, EIND, EINV, PDIP, DM

SUBJECT: DRAFT TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S ADDRESS TO PRESIDENT
OF DAHOMEY

REFERENCE; COTONOU 1253 AND 1276

USUN FOR WYGANT

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF ADDRESS AMBASSADOR PROPOSES TO
GIVE ON OCCASION OF HIS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO
PRESIDENT OF DAHOMEY:

QUOTE. I AM GREATLY HONORED TO PRESENT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
THE LETTERS BY WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
ACCREDITS ME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTEN-
TIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
AND RECALLS MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR ROBERT ANDERSON.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VALUES HIGHLY THE
EXCELLENT RELATIONS IT HAS ENJOYED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF
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DAHOMEY SINCE YOUR NATION ACHIEVED ITS INDEPENDENCE IN

1960. IT WILL BE MY ASPIRATION TO PROMOTE IN EVERY WAY
THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS CORDIALITY, AND TO CONTINUE THE

GOOD WORK OF MY ILLUSTRIOUS PREDECESSORS, ROBINSON
MCILVAINE, CLINTON KNOX, MATTHEW LOORAM AND ROBERT
ANDERSON. MY GREAT SATISFACTION WITH MY APPOINTMENT TO
COTONOU STEMS IN PART FROM THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THEY
SPEAK OF THEIR YEARS IN DAHOMEY, AND BY THE TESTIMONY OF
OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER AMERICANS, BOTH
OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, WHO HAVE SERVED OR LIVED IN DAHOMEY
OR KNOWN DAHOMEYANS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. ALL SPEAK WITH
DELIGHT OF THE WARM HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDSHIP THEY HAVE
ENJOYED IN THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE OF YOUR
COUNTRY.

MY WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE AS DELIGHTED AS I AM TO REPRESENT
OUR COUNTRY IN DAHOMEY. WE ALREADY CLAIM SOME ROOTS IN
WEST AFRICA, BECAUSE WE SPENT TWO PRECIOUS YEARS IN GHANA
AND OUR YOUNGEST CHILD WAS BORN THERE. I ALSO HAD THE
GOOD FORTUNE TO TOUR DAHOMEY BY AUTO IN 1962. I CAN
THINK OF NO MORE HOSPITABLE OR MORE PLEASANT COUNTRY IN
WHICH TO REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I NOTE WITH MUCH SATISFACTION THAT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS
TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN INCREASING, AND
THAT RECENTLY CONCRETE POSSIBILITIES HAVE EMERGED
FOR AMERICAN FIRMS TO ASSIST DAHOMEY IN DEVELOPING ITS
NATURAL RESOURCES. I WELCOME THESE TRENDS, AND WILL DO
ALL I CAN TO PROMOTE THEM. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROMOTE AMERICAN COOPERATION, BOTH
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, TO ASSIST YOUR COUNTRY DEVELOP ITSELF
AND REALIZE ITS ASPIRATIONS FOR ECONOMIC/SOCIAL PROGRESS.

EVIDENCE OF MY GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR DAHOMEY'S DEVELOP-
MENT IS EXPRESSED IN THE TWO SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS RECENTLY
UNDERTAKEN AS A RESULT OF LOANS EXTENDED BY THE AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY AND WITH THE WORLD BANK AND THE
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE
ROAD FROM PARAKOU TO MALANVILLE AND THE COTONOU BRIDGE.
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OUR CONFIDENCE IN DAHOMEY'S FUTURE IS ALSO REFLECTED IN
THE PRESENCE OF ABOUT SIXTY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS,
WHO HAVE BEEN ASSISTING YOU IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE,
PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION. AMERICA'S INTEREST IN
DAHOMEY'S FUTURE IS LIKEWISE IMPLICIT IN THE EFFORTS
OF A NUMBER OF OUR PRIVATE COMPANIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN
WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO THE FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT OF DAHOMEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE
NOTED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE FINE COOPERATION OF

THE GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY IN FACILITATING THE RAPID
UNLOADING AND FORWARDING OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR THE
SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AFFLICTED BY THE GREAT DROUGHT.

I WISH TO ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY OF MY COUNTRY'S
SYMPATHY FOR YOUR PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS TO REMAIN FREE
AND INDEPENDENT, TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH OTHER PEOPLES FOR THE COMMON
GOOD. LET ME CONFIRM MY INTENTION OF DOING ALL I CAN
TO STRENGTHEN EVERY FORM OF COOPERATION--ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL AND DIPLOMATIC--BETWEEN DAHOMEY
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FOR THE GOOD OF BOTH
NATIONS AND IN SUPPORT OF DAHOMEYAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
A BETTER LIFE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I BRING YOU THE PERSONAL GREETINGS OF
PRESIDENT FORD, AND THE BEST WISHES OF THE GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONTINUED
ADVANCEMENT AND WELL BEING OF THE REPUBLIC OF DAHOMEY.
LONG LIVE AMERICAN-DAHOMEYAN FRIENDSHIP. UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR WOULD APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FOR
ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS, AS WELL AS FOR REVISION OF
BOTH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE. FINAL TEXT COULD BE APPROVED
DAY OR SO AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, FOR DELIVERY TO CHIEF OF
PROTOCOL. INGERSOLL

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